

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049738

EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOMALIS GET IT OFF THEIR CHESTS

EMBASSY MOGADISCIO BELIEVES DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE'S MEETINGS MARCH 1-3 WITH PRESIDENT SIAD AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED THE POLITICAL CHASM SEPARATING THE US AND SOMALIA, BUT LEFT THE DOOR AJAR FOR A POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS. BOTH SIAD AND OTHER OFFICIALS TREATED SEELYE TO LONG, SOMETIMES RAMBLING COMPLAINTS ABOUT ALLEGED US EFFORTS TO FRUSTRATE SOMALI EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL UNITY. SIAD EMPHASIZED THE CENTRAL ROLE ETHIOPIA PLAYS
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IN SOMALIA'S STRATEGIC THINKING, AND LINKED RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THE USSR TO THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS IN SOMALIA'S LONG-TERM STRUGGLE WITH ETHIOPIAN "IMPERIALISM" IN DJIBOUTI, ERITREA, AND THE OGADEN. HE ALSO DECLARED THAT:

--THE SOVIETS HAD RECEIVED NO QUID PRO QUO FOR THEIR

AID.

--HE WAS NOT ANTI-AMERICAN AND HOPED FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE US.

--HIS OWN FAMILY CAME FROM THE OGADEN, WHICH HE IS DETERMINED TO UNIFY WITH SOMALIA.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THESE MEETINGS CLEARLY SHOW A POTENTIAL FOR SOMEWHAT IMPROVED RELATIONS. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THE US SHOULD NOW MAKE SOME TANGIBLE GESTURE TO DEMONSTRATE ITS DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM.(CONFIDENTIAL) MOGADISCIO 364,365-3/6.

2. EMPTY SUITCASES FOR SINO-SOVIET NEGOTIATORS

EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS THAT BOTH A TOP SOVIET CHINA SPECIALIST AND THE PRC CHARGE IN MOSCOW SAY NEITHER SIDE OFFERED ANY NEW PROPOSALS IN THE JUST-COMPLETED ROUND OF SINO-SOVIET BORDER TALKS IN PEKING. DEPUTY MFA CHINESE AFFAIRS CHIEF POTAPENKO TOLD THE EMBASSY MARCH 2 THAT:

--THE TALKS WERE NOT INTENDED AS A PROBE OF THE POST-MAO CHINESE LEADERSHIP'S NEW ATTITUDES TOWARDS MOSCOW, BUT MERELY TO TAKE UP ROUTINE BORDER NEGOTIATIONS WHERE THEY HAD LEFT OFF.

--DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IL'ICHEV'S RETURN TO MOSCOW WAS ALSO ROUTINE, AND SHOULD NOT BE READ AS A CONFIDENTIAL

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"BREAKDOWN" OF THE TALKS.

--SO FAR AS MOSCOW COULD SEE, CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE THE DEATH OF MAO.

PRC CHARGE WANG CHIN-CHING AGREED THAT NO NEW PROPOSALS HAD BEEN MADE, TELLING A WEST EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT THAT IL'ICHEV "WENT WITH AN EMPTY SUITCASE, AND HE CAME BACK WITH AN EMPTY SUITCASE." (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 3003, 3/3.

3. NIMEIRI COMMENTS ON TALKS IN KHARTOUM AND CAIRO

SUDAN'S PRESIDENT NIMEIRI TOLD AMBASSADOR BREWER MARCH 5 HE WAS PLEASED WITH HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN KHARTOUM WITH PRESIDENTS SADAT AND ASAD. HE CLAIMED THE THREE LEADERS HAD AGREED UPON A STRATEGY FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH WOULD RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF OTHER KEY ARAB STATES AND PAVE THE WAY FOR A RETURN TO GENEVA. HE ALSO SAID THE KHARTOUM MEETING HAD SERVED TO WARN THE

SOVIETS THAT THE AREA STATES WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE

SECURITY OF THE RED SEA REGION.

TURNING TO THE AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT IN CAIRO, NIMEIRI SAID HE
DOUBTED THE ISSUE OF SUDANESE-ETHIOPIAN TENSION WOULD
ARISE, AS NEITHER SIDE WOULD WANT TO INJECT ANOTHER
CONTENTIOUS ELEMENT INTO THE ALREADY TROUBLED ATMOSPHERE.
(CONFIDENTIAL) KHARTOUM 724, 3/7 (EXDIS).

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